

REMARKS

The present amendment is in response to the Office Action, dated May 26, 2004, where the Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 and 49-51, and has allowed claims 21-48 and 52-54. By the present amendment, claims 1-20 and 49-51 have been cancelled, and new claims 55-59 have been added. After the present amendment, claims 21-48 and 52-59 are pending in the application. An early notice of allowance for the pending claims in view of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Rejection of Claims 1-20 and 49-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-5, 8-11, 13-14, 16-18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun, et al. (USPN 6,212,263) (hereinafter "Sun") in view of Bremner (USPN 6,377,681) ("Bremner"). The Examiner has also rejected claims 2, 6, 12, 15 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun in view of Bremner, and further in view of Seazhotz, et al. (USPN 5,737,706) ("Seazhotz"). Further, the Examiner has rejected claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun in view of Bremner, and further in view of Damoci, et al. (USPN 4,958,371) ("Damoci"). In addition, the Examiner has rejected claims 49-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun in view of Bremner, and further in view of Gray, et al. (USPN 5,454,031) ("Gray").

Applicant respectfully disagrees; however, in order to expedite the prosecution of the present application, applicant has cancelled claims 1-20 and 49-51. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-20 and 49-51 has been rendered moot.

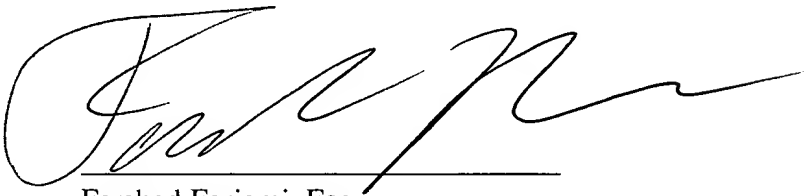
B. New Claims 55-58

By the present amendment, applicant has also added a new independent method claim 55, which includes limitations similar to claim 45, which has been allowed by the Examiner. In claim 55, however, the limitations "connecting the apparatus at the customer premise to a tip conductor and a ring conductor" and "taking the apparatus off-hook" of claim 45 have been deleted, and the preamble of claim 55 reads: "A method of providing a constant current to an apparatus coupled to a telephone network via a tip conductor and a ring conductor and placed off-hook, the method comprising". Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 55 and its dependent claims 56-59 are also in condition for allowance.

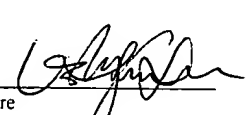
C. Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons, an early notice of allowance for claims 21-48 and 52-59 pending in the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for any questions.

Respectfully Submitted;
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